

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SSC-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /070 W
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P 121805Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7257
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, FR
SUBJECT: NEW MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

SUMMARY. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THREE CABINET CHANGES EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 11 CONTAINS THREE POINTS OF INTEREST: MONIQUE PELLETIER HAS BEEN RAISED TO MINISTER-DELEGATE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, SHOWING A CONTINUED INTEREST BY GISCARD FOR PROGRESS IN THIS AREA; PIERRE BERNARD-REYMOND'S APPOINTMENT AS STATE SECRETARY AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY EQUIPS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR GIVING GREATER ATTENTION TO EUROPEAN QUESTIONS, AS FRANCE GETS READY TO TAKE OVER THE EC COUNCIL PRESIDENCY IN JANUARY AND AS THE COUNTRY PREPARES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN JUNE; RPR DEPUTY JEAN-PAUL MOUROT'S NOMINATION AS STATE SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE BALANCES THE GISCARDIAN AND CENTRIST APPOINTMENTS ABOVE. THIS MINICHANGE SHOULD PUT TO REST FOR A WHILE RUMORS OF A MORE EXTENSIVE RESHUFFLE. END SUMMARY.

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1. MONIQUE PELLETIER (SEE PARIS 919 OF JANUARY 11 FOR BIO) MADE HER MARK IN THE PUBLIC LAST YEAR AS "MRS. DRUG", AFTER COMPLETING THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE, INTER-MINISTERIAL REPORT ON NARCOTICS. SHE ACQUITTED HERSELF WELL WITH DISPASSION AND FIRMNESS IN THIS TASK WHICH DEALT WITH A SENSITIVE SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGI-

CAL PROBLEM. AS A REWARD FOR HER HARD WORK, SHE WAS RAISED FROM THIS MISSION TO STATE SECRETARY IN THE JUSTICE MINISTRY LAST YEAR, WHERE SHE CONTINUED TO CO-ORDINATE DRUG QUESTIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS DEAL WITH PRISONS, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, ETC. SHE HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN EFFECTIVE ENOUGH IN HER JUNIOR MINISTER ROLE TO CATCH THE ATTENTION OF HER SUPERIORS AND MERIT A FURTHER PROMOTION. WHETHER HER NOMINATION FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS WILL BE ANY LESS SYMBOLIC AND MORE MEANINGFUL THAN PREVIOUS HOLDERS OF THIS FUNCTION REMAINS TO BE SEEN. FRANCOISE GIROUD QUIT AFTER A RATHER BRIEF STAY AS STATE SECRETARY EARLY IN GISCARD'S ADMINISTRATION; HER SUCCESSOR NICOLE PASQUIER LEFT NO LASTING MARK IN THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, AND THE LAST INCUMBENT, JACQUELINE NONON, RESIGNED LAST JUNE FOR LACK OF FUNDS. MADAME PELLETIER WILL, HOWEVER, BE THE FIRST TO HAVE THE MINISTERIAL TITLE, WHICH GIVES HER AT LEAST THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETINGS. SHE JOINS TWO OTHER WOMEN AT THIS RANK, SIMONE VEIL FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS AND ALICE SAUNIER-SEITE FOR UNIVERSITIES. IN ADDITION TO HER TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES, MADAME PELLETIER IS A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN PARTY ACTIVITIES AND A COMPLETE SUPPORTER OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PROGRAM OF REFORM.

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2. THE NOMINATION OF BERNARD-REYMOND (SEE PARIS 10466 OF APRIL 8, 1977 FOR BIO) WAS TIED, ACCORDING TO THE ELYSEE SPOKESMAN, TO THE FACT THAT FRANCE WILL ASSUME THE EC PRESIDENCY NEXT YEAR. HE WILL ALSO NO DOUBT FOLLOW EUROPEAN SUBJECTS WITH AN EYE TO PROTECTING GOLF INTERESTS, AS FRANCE PREPARES FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN JUNE. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, HIS POSITION WILL CONSTITUTE A SECOND SECSTATE IN THE QUAI, IN ADDITION TO OLIVIER STIRN, WHO ACCORDING TO THE PRESS WILL CONCENTRATE ON EASTERN EUROPE, ANGLOPHONE AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA AND THE PACIFIC. HAVING TWO SECSTATES IS A FREQUENT PRACTICE AT THE QUAI, BETTER TO COPE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF SPECIALIZED SUBJECTS AND THE HEAVY REPRESENTATIONAL LOAD. BERNARD-REYMOND BRINGS TO HIS NEW POSITION NO PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OTHER THAN BEING A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF THE VERY PRO-EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (CDS). HAVING BEEN SECSTATE FOR THE BUDGET IN 1977-1978, HE SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO FURNISH SOME ECONOMIC EXPERTISE ON COMPLICATED EUROPEAN QUESTIONS. HE IS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE CABINET, ONLY 34 YEARS OLD, ALTHOUGH HE ALREADY HAS SIX YEARS' EXPERIENCE AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BEHIND HIM. HE MAY

EVEN BRING SOME FRESH IDEAS TO HIS WORK. IN THE LAST

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YEAR, HE HAS JOINED OTHER YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE CDS TO
LOBBY AGAINST THE THEN AGING PARTY LEADERSHIP (LECANUET)
AND CONTINUES TO BE ESTEEMED BY HIS COLLEAGUES FOR HIS
RESOURCEFULNESS AND INNOVATIVE SPIRIT.

3. MOUROT (BIO FOLLOWS SEPTTEL) WILL REPLACE MADAME
PELLETIER AS SECSTATE FOR JUSTICE, PRESUMABLY TAKING OVER
THE DRUG FILE. ALSO YOUNG, 36, THIS RPR NOMINEE COMPLE-
TES THE DISTRIBUTION NEEDED TO KEEP ALL THE PARTIES IN
THE MAJORITY HAPPY. IN FACT, MOUROT IS MORE LIBERAL
THAN CHIRACIAN AND SUPPORTED THE GISCARDIAN CANDIDATE
CHABAN-DELMAS RATHER THAN THE RPR EDGAR FAURE FOR THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LAST APRIL. HIS GIS-
CARDIAN TENDENCIES CAN ALSO BE SEEN IN HIS PARLIAMENTARY
ACTIVITIES WHERE HE HAS WORKED FOR A BETTER DAY-TO-DAY
WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RPR AND THE GOF. THE
HALF-GESTURE OF THIS NOMINATION BY GISCARD/BARRE WILL
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NOT SATISFY THE HARD-CORE RPR BUT IT MAY TAKE AWAY FROM
IT ANY EXCUSE TO CRITICIZE THE CHANGES.

4. RUMORS HAD BEEN CURRENT, AS ALWAYS ON THE RETURN
FROM VACATION, ABOUT VARIOUS CABINET CHANGES. THESE
CHANGES ARE LESS THAN WHAT WAS EXPECTED, BUT THEY WILL
PROBABLY SATISFY SPECULATION FOR A WHILE AND ALLOW THE
GOVERNMENT TO GET BACK TO PREPARING ITSELF FOR THE
BUDGET DEBATE FOR WHEN PARLIAMENT OPENS OCTOBER 2.
GAMMON

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